Mistresses Mix Leather and Politics

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Doctors Urge Health Awareness

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The Sacramento Star

A Fortnightly Journal of News and Opinion for the Women and Men of the Gay Community

Volume 1, Number 5 *July 28, 1982*

Immuno-Deficient Syndrome Is Epidemic, Awareness Urged For Gay Men

By JAMES K. GRAHAM

Incidence of a group of diseases related to immune-system deficiencies has reached epidemic proportions in the United States and the first occurrences of the diseases have been recently reported in Sacramento, according to local internist Sandy Pomerantz, M.D.

The diseases, including a cancer called Kaposi's Sarcoma, a type of pneumonia called pneumocystis carnii pneumonia, a viral infection known as cyto-megalo virus, and various related infections, have hit the gay male population hardest.

Since the first case was reported in July, 1981, nearly 350 cases have been reported in gay men. Only ten of all reported cases have been women, all allegedly heterosexual.

At first, it seemed that the victims were only from urban areas, such as New York City, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. It was also thought that the victims led especially active sex lives, with many contacts and excessive drug use.

In the past few weeks, however, Sacramento physicians have diagnosed one case of Kaposi's Sarcoma and two cases of pneumocystis carnii pneumonia in local gay men.

"And these people," said Pomerantz in a recent meeting with gay media representatives, "do not have lifestyles that different from mine or yours. Maybe a little recreational drug use, a night out once in a while—nothing heavy. One is even in a 'monogamous' relationship."

Pomerantz and other doctors who are working with victims of what he termed the "Immuno-deficient syndrome" are concerned to make the gay male community aware of the dangers the syndrome poses. But they also want to avoid scare tactics and sensationalism.

Pomerantz was particularly critical of the Sacramento Bee's handling of his presentation about the immuno-deficient diseases at the Medical Center's Grand Rounds on Friday, July 16. The headline of the story used the phrase "Gay Plague."

"I never used those words," Pomerantz said. "There's a value judgment implicit in the word 'plague,' and it's sensationalistic. There does exist an epidemic, by medical standards."

The immuno-deficient syndrome is particularly virulent. Of the 350 reported cases of Kaposi's Sarcoma in the last year, 40% have resulted in death. Because the body's immune system is already suppressed, and because the drugs used in chemotherapy to treat the cancer suppress it even further, many of the victims died of pneumocystis carnii pneumonia or other pneumonia-like infections rather than of the cancer itself.

Because of this high mortality rate, and because both the cause and the cure of the immuno-deficient syndrome are still unknown, Pomerantz stressed awareness and caution, especially for the gay male community.

"Know what symptoms to look for, and examine yourself at least once a month," he recommended. "If you have any questions, don't be afraid to call your doctor."

"I can't tell you there's a cure [for Kaposi's Sarcoma], but there are people who are now disease-free after six months or so with no ongoing malignancy.

"It does seem that there is some connection between drug use, especially marijuana and poppers and alcohol, and a lifestyle involving a lot of sexual contacts, and the immuno-deficient syndrome. But that doesn't mean that someone who doesn't use drugs and has only one sex partner isn't going to get it."

To put this epidemic into perspective, Pomerantz pointed out that 350 cases of Kaposi's Sarcoma in one year is almost one new case every day. Since the cancer occurs almost exclusively in gay men, if one estimates the gay male population at eight million, in another year at the current rate of incidence one out of every 80,000 gay men will be affected.

By comparison, the incidence of Hepatitis B, which affects the entire population, is about 200,000 cases per year, or one out of every 1,000 people in the United States.

But, Pomerantz also noted, because Kaposi's and the other immuno-deficient ailments occur primarily in gay men, there is a kind of unconscious homophobia at work within the medical profession.

"Even good doctors," he said, "may be missing this because of unconscious homophobia, because of an unawareness that's related to their uncomfortableness with sexuality. Most doctors don't like taking sexual histories from their patients, but it's important for good health care.

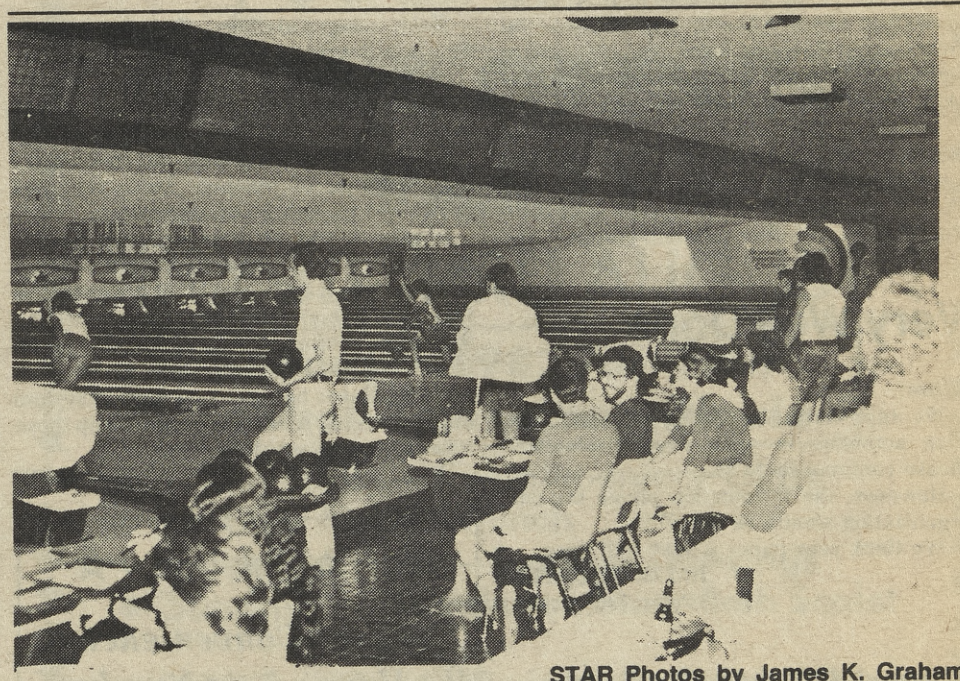
"There's also the fact that most doctors see so few real skin malignancies that they don't take the Kaposi's lesions seriously. And these lesions don't initially look very serious."

Another manifestation of unconscious homophobia is the amount of resources devoted to research on the immuno-deficient syndrome. Although research is going on at New York University and the Sloan-Kettering Institute in New York City, at UCLA, and at UCSF, much of the researchers' time is unpaid and the efforts are not well funded.

Although the incidence of Kaposi's Sarcoma in the gay male community is about twice that of Legionnaire's disease or Toxic Shock Syndrome, about seven times as much money has been spent on those diseases as on Kaposi's Sarcoma.

"I am convinced," Pomerantz told The STAR, "that if this disease did not involve sexual identity, there would have been answers a long time ago." ★

"If this disease did not involve sexual identity there would have been answers a long time ago."



STAR Photos by James K. Graham

Summer Bowling League

Sacramento's first summer gay bowling league is still in action until August 9 at Land Park Bowl on Freeport Boulevard. Every Monday from 6:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m., 100 men and women gather for an evening of friendly competition and convivial comradery. The bowlers on the 20 teams range in age from 20 to over 60, and in skill from novices to near-professionals. About 30% of the bowlers are women. On July 26, The STAR photographed and talked with the Hot to Trot team as they bowled on lanes 3 and 4. Special thanks to the team, to league secretaries Carol Cook and Jim Hahn, and to all members of the league for their cooperation.

Opinion

Reader Protests Bee's Homophobia

Editor:

I was angered, offended, and upset by Peter Schrag's column in The Bee on 7 July, 1982, "The ACLU's Gay Funeral Case."

The overall anti-gay tone of Schrag's column bothered me the most. He lumps "homosexuals" with Nazis, Communists, pornographers, Klansmen, and criminals. I would hope that homosexuality doesn't still have the reputation it did years ago, when it was considered a particularly perverse crime. Most people, I hope, would not make the associations Schrag did. He was making a point, but he didn't mention other "underdog" efforts, like protesting war by not registering for the draft, that the ACLU supports. Gays and lesbians have been oppressed for far too long, and it's about time someone started questioning the heterosexist structures of our society.

Schrag cannot understand why the ACLU should waste its time defending "the rights of homosexuals to get paid time off to attend the funerals of their lovers." Gays and lesbians are human beings. They have long-lasting, loving relationships just as straight people do. When one of the partners in these relationships dies, the other feels as much grief as a straight person would. The bereaved gay man or lesbian woman has as much right to paid time off for the funeral as the bereaved straight man or woman. It is basic sensitivity to individual needs.

Schrag poses the question, ". . . would civil liberties in this nation really be in jeopardy if only legally married people at SP were allowed three days off to attend the funeral of someone 'in the immediate family'?" I respond, "Yes." The type of policy that SP is so stubbornly adhering to only recognizes one lifestyle of many that are common in this country. There are millions of people in this nation who, by choice, preference, or necessity, are not legally wed, but are involved in a long-lasting relationship. Lesbians and gays, those who do not believe in the institution of marriage, older couples who cannot marry for financial reasons—all fall into this category. These people have as much right to have their important relationships recognized by law as those whose relationships are sanctioned by that peculiar "marriage" of law and religion, matrimony.

The Bee's choice of Bette Montgomery's letter for publication (July 8) is disturbing, also. Her letter seems inspired by Schrag's column, as it is addressing the same "waste" of effort to recognize gays and lesbians that Schrag attacks. "These characters," as Montgomery calls gays and lesbians, form a substantial portion of the world's population. There is a strong gay community in Sacramento, and it is worthy of media coverage, just as any other segment of Sacramento's diverse culture.

I hope that in the future, the Bee will recognize that gay and lesbian activities and concerns **are** relevant and important to anyone interested in equality and fairness for all.

JANE SOOBY

AA Does Not Endorse Outside Groups

Editor:

An interesting article entitled "'Living Sober' is Theme of Gay Alcoholics' Meet" by Donna J. Lentine, appearing in the July 14, 1982 edition, is misinformed where it states that the Living Sober Conference is "approved" by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, and that Al/Anon is "endorsed" by A.A.

Tradition Six of A.A. states that A.A. does not endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, and Tradition Ten says that the Fellowship of A.A. has no opinion on outside issues.

These Traditions evolved out of the experience of the Fellowship of A.A. in its formative years wherein we learned the necessity of keeping focus on our primary spiritual aim, which is to carry the message of A.A. to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Although the article is supportive of homosexual alcoholics and the collective recovery of same, it ignores the fact that A.A.'s true position with respect to outside conferences and other self-help groups is one of cooperation—but not endorsement or affiliation.

It is hoped that reporters and other contributors to your newspaper will respect these Traditions which support the primary purpose for which the Fellowship of A.A. exists.

RUSS

PS: Surname not for publication, in accordance with our Tradition of personal anonymity at the public level. Thank you.

Very Well Done

Editor:

We appreciate your listing the Man Two Man activities in your events calendar. Please continue to do so.

However, the information phone for our organization should be 391-9755.

We think your paper is very well done.

JIM McWHORTER
Patlar Enterprises

Send STAR To L.A.

Editor:

I have seen issues 1 and 3 of the STAR, and they looked very good. I am currently working in Los Angeles, but I get home to Sacto every other week or so. I'd like to start a subscription to the STAR so I don't miss out on any of the issues. I'm hoping it's going to be a success.

HOWIE PLZAK

Thanks Advertisers

Editor:

First, congratulations. The Sacramento Star is well-written, timely, and informative.

Second, kudos to your advertisers for supporting your efforts. In turn, let me say that ads that appear in lesbian/gay and/or feminist publications are the only ones that I make a point of reading. And, whenever possible, I patronize our supporters.

Finally, a special commendation on Dr. Pomerantz's June 30th article about poppers and the "new gay diseases." It is imperative that the lesbian and gay community be thoroughly informed about these special health threats, especially since many of us are locked into a heterosexual medical system that ignores our particular needs. Keep those articles coming!

KAY BUIE

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Charity Begins At Home

The recent contests for the titles Mr., Miss and Ms Gay Rodeo draw attention to the gay community's ability to raise large sums of money for charity, in this case Muscular Dystrophy.

There is an age-old saying that "charity begins at home." At home in the gay community there are several groups that could use a fund raising drive similar to the one for Muscular Dystrophy.

Our Community United is attempting to open a community center to serve the gay community. Just to open a small storefront center will cost around $700 a month. The local Freedom Week Committee ended this year's festivities with a small deficit, leaving no money to prepare for next year's celebration. Several other small organizations barely survive and are constantly looking for money to provide important services to the gay community.

While it is important to show the non-gay community that gays also care about others, there is equally a need for donations to the local gay charities to maintain organizations and to support services which only members of our community will fund.

Enjoyed Wimmin's Celebration

Editor:

I had a wonderful experience when I accepted an invitation to join a small group of wimmin in a potluck dinner and service. Never much of a church-goer, I confess my reluctance to attend the service. I expected sermons of worship for some strange, male creature who considered himself superior to all, simply by the virtues we'd give him.

Also, I expected to spend long hours cringing under the uncomfortable girdle of subservience. There, of course, would be no room for any discussion of what I specifically believe in and I anticipated leaving with the usual gripes of guilt and anger over the judgment that would be made of the life I've lived.

As it turned out, dinner was graced by whatever any of us wanted to share and the rest of the evening followed suit. After our meal, we sat together in a circle and one womyn requested that each of us express our wishes in being there. We wished for courage, love, knowledge and tranquility.

Afterwards, we sang together from song sheets, upon which was handscribed some of the most beautiful wimmin's music I've ever heard. Mixed between songs by popular womyn artists, we sang folk ballads, written to express wimmin's hopes and visions for the future. Most of the songs were ones that the participants had written. One particularly beautiful song expressed the unity that is felt when wimmin come together to celebrate our strength.

Interestingly enough, there was no one in attendance who considered her/himself superior to anyone. Nothing in any of the feelings and beliefs we shared was censored, judged or labeled in any derogatory fashion. There were no sermons, no put-downs and no guilt trips. We paid no fees and it was made clear that our door was at all times open for both entrances and exits.

By the close of the meeting, we found that time had passed too quickly. We'd have stayed longer, were it not for the press of Monday morning responsibilities. Contrary to my expectations, I left with no bones to pick. In place of being asked to offer subservience, I was asked to gain in personal stamina, and a surprising feeling of fullness lingered in my stomach, mind and spirit.

DONNA J. LENTINE

Editor's Note: See the calendar on page 8 for further information about the Women's Celebrations.

Never An Easy Task

Editor:

Best wishes on your new publication. Starting a newspaper is never an easy task, as you doubtless are discovering. But I hope lasting success comes your way.

ARTHUR C. NAUMAN
Ombudsman, The Sacramento Bee

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UCD Students Seek Change In Anti-Discrimination Policy

By JIM HAHN
and JAMES K. GRAHAM

What started this spring as a skirmish between the Associated Students of UC Davis (ASUCD) and the local University of California administration has now grown into a fight for a change in the University of California's system-wide policy on non-discrimination.

But it is not clear to all parties involved just what issues are at stake in the battle.

ASUCD drafted an affirmative action plan, under the assumption that its casual and part-time employees were not covered by the university's plan. After reviewing the ASUCD plan, the Davis Student Affairs office sent it for further review to the attorney for the Regents of the University of California, the university's governing body.

The ASUCD plan was rejected because it contained the term "sexual preference" and because the university already had an affirmative action plan. The university felt that this term was inconsistent with state and national laws as well as with the system-wide University of California affirmative action plan. The Regents' attorney ruled that there must be one uniform affirmative action plan for all employees of the university.

A few members of the Gay Students Union at UCD took action. They enlisted the help of UC Regent Sheldon Andelson, the first openly gay regent of the university, in an attempt to change the system-wide affirmative action plan.

In a meeting with five gay students from Davis, Andelson outlined a few important steps in building a case to present to the Regents of the University of California. Documented instances of discrimination or harrassment, he said, must be found. Furthermore, according to Andelson, the long-term employees of the university must be willing to write letters explaining any discrimination, harrassment, fear, or discomfort they have experienced as a result of their sexual preference.

Andelson also stated that there is a solid basis for the change. Governor Brown has issued an executive order against discrimination in state employment on the basis of sexual orientation. University of California President David Saxon has stated that there will be no discrimination in the university setting. What is needed now, Andelson pointed out, is legal recourse in the event of discrimination or harrassment.

According to Bob Bynum, Public Information Officer at UCD, there is a good deal of confusion about the case. Apparently, he said, the gay students and ASUCD have confused two separate policies—anti-discrimination and affirmative action.

Affirmative action, according to Bynum, involves "goals and timetables" for implementing the goals. Sexual preference has not been recognized in state and federal law as a basis for affirmative action. Further, Bynum said, the gay students who are working on the case at UCD have agreed that goals and timetables are not their concern.

Anti-discrimination policy, on the other hand, deals with equality and fairness in the relations of the university with employees and students. The official policy of the University of California is that it does not discriminate unfairly against groups and individuals. Also, as Regent Andelson said, UC President Saxon has issued a memo stating that sexual orientation will not be a consideration in personnel matters. But Saxon's statement is not part of the university's official policy.

In addition, Bynum said, the main concern of the ASUCD may be its autonomy from the university rather than discrimination against gay employees.

Bynum told The STAR, "All employees of the Associated Students are really employees of the Regents. So they are all governed by the Regents' policy."

However, he said, ASUCD is eager to establish its autonomy from the Regents, and is using the sexual orientation issue as a tool in its efforts to do so.

The Davis students seeking the change in university policy ask any current or former employees or students of the University of California who have experienced discrimination, harrassment, or fear because of their sexual orientation to write to Archie Kleingartner, Vice President, University of California, 174 University Hall, Berkeley, CA 94704. ★

Gay Rodeo Draws Crowds To Reno This Weekend

Gay men and women will gather this weekend in Reno for the eighth annual Reno Gay Rodeo, sponsored by the Comstock Gay Rodeo Association at the Nevada State Fairgrounds.

The festivities begin on Friday, July 30, with the Country Fair, a steak barbeque, and a barn dance. The rodeo

competition begins on Saturday, July 31, and the partying continues with an all-night country western dance. Also planned for Saturday evening is a Gay Rodeo first: an evening of women's concerts. The rodeo concludes on Sunday, August 1.

Also new to the rodeo this year will be the appearance of the National Reno Gay Rodeo Marching Band.

Founded in 1975 by Phil Ragsdale, who still heads it, the National Reno Gay Rodeo offers $1500 prizes to the best all-around cowboy and cowgirl for competition in traditional rodeo events such as bareback bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, barrel racing, team roping, and bull dogging. Also included are less traditional events such as cow riding, wild cow milking, and steer decorating.

Rodeo competition begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday and at noon on Sunday.

For many spectators, the entertainment may be more important than the competition in the arena. Headlining this year's barn dance and country-western dance are veteran singer Rose Maddox, San Francisco favorite Sharon McNight, and the Texas Mustang Band.

The barn dance starts at 7 p.m. Friday and runs till 3 a.m. Saturday. The country-western dance is scheduled for 9 p.m. Saturday through 4 a.m. Sunday.

The Country Fair, starting at noon on Friday and at 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, will offer a carnival, games, exhibits, and sales and information booths. ★

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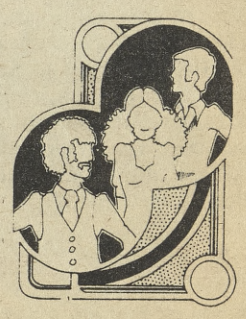

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Facts About Immuno-Deficient Syndrome; What To Look For and Where

FACTS

- Kaposi's Sarcoma is an abnormal proliferation of the cells lining blood vessels in the covering surfaces of the body, such as the skin, the inside of the mouth, and the gastro-intestinal tract.

- Kaposi's Sarcoma is named for the 19th century Hungarian doctor who first described it.

- There are two types of Kaposi's Sarcoma: a slow-progressing, localized, nodular form first found in, and still mostly found in, elderly men of Mediterranean descent: Italians, southern Greeks, Sephardic Jews; and a rapidly-spreading form that attacks the lymph nodes, first described in adolescents in Equatorial Africa and now found in gay men in the United States.

- The slow-progressing, localized form of Kaposi's Sarcoma is seldom fatal. Patients have a mean survival time of eight to 13 years, and usually die of other causes.

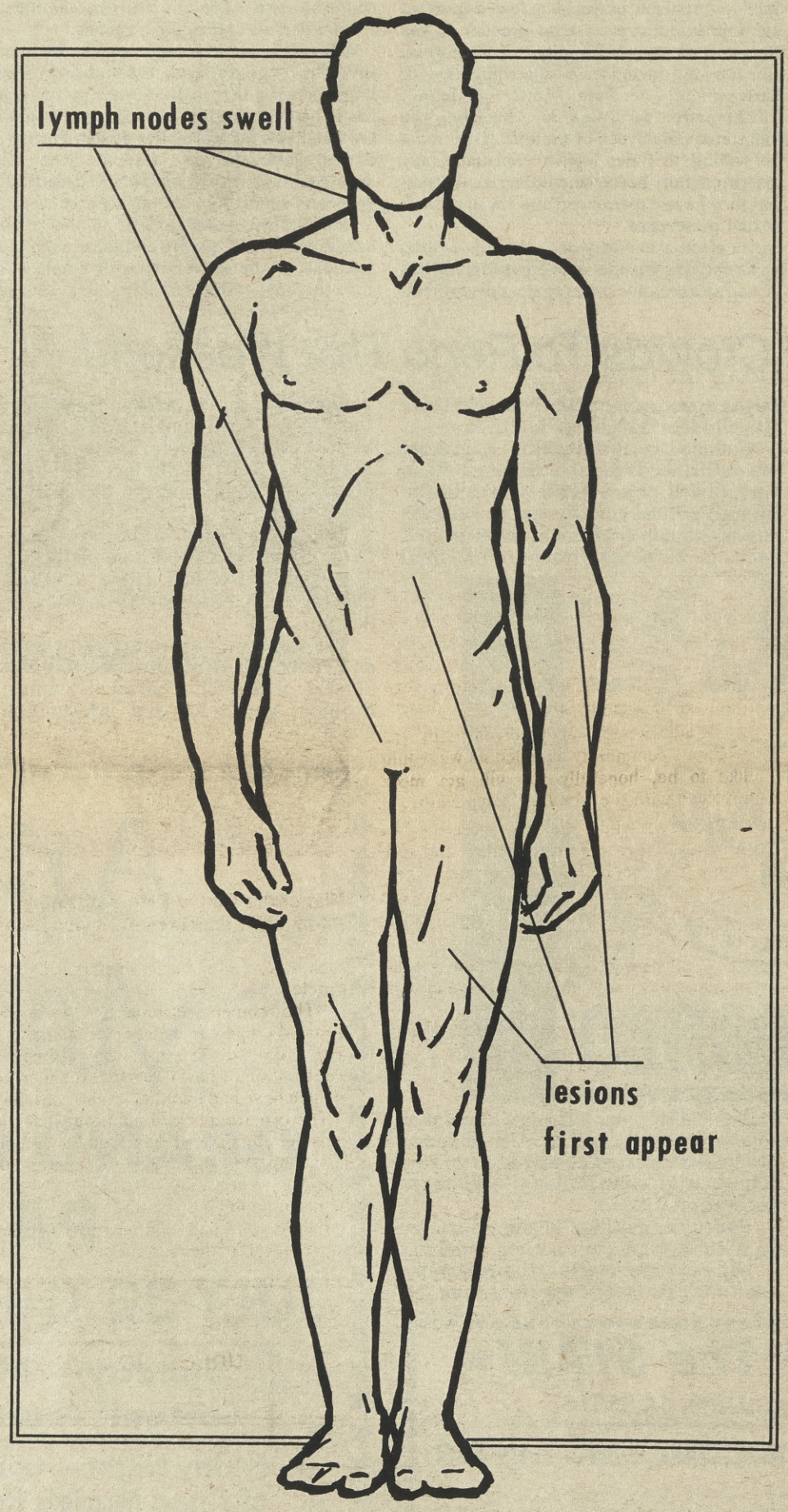
- The fast-progressing form of Kaposi's Sarcoma had a 90% mortality rate in three years in Equatorial Africa, and has had a 40% mortality rate in the U.S. in the last year.

- The usual treatment for Kaposi's Sarcoma is chemotherapy. Recently, single-agent treatment with a drug called Velban has been tentatively shown to produce better results than multiple-agent treatment. The single-agent treatment does not cause as rapid regression of the tumors, but since it does not suppress the already-deficient immune system as much as multiple-agent treatment, its use involves less danger of other infections.

- Another type of treatment, described in unpublished research done at UCSF, involved patients who had a limited form of Kaposi's Sarcoma. In these patients, a major change in their lifestyle—good nutrition, balanced diet, at least eight hours of sleep daily, elimination of alcohol and recreational drug use—has shown some regression of the tumor.

- There is a very high incidence of a second malignancy before treatment in cases of Kaposi's Sarcoma: 37% higher than in other cancers. These are almost always lymphomas, cancers of the lymph glands.

- Pneumocystis carnii pneumonia is caused by a parasite and occurs only in immuno-suppressed people. Until recently, it was typically found in patients who had received organ transplants and were on immuno-suppressant drugs to minimize transplant rejection.



Star Illustration by Gene Holsington

- Disseminated cyto-megalo virus (CMV) attacks the same types of people. This virus is related to the herpes viruses and to the Hepatitis B virus. It is a DNA virus, which means it can invade cells and take them over by itself.

- For some years, the medical profession has recognized "heterophile-negative mononucleosis," which attacked only gay people. This is now recognized as CMV.

- Many men who later developed Kaposi's Sarcoma had a CMV-like illness about six to 12 months before the cancer appeared. This has led some eminent researchers to speculate that CMV has mutated and become oncogenic (cancer-causing).

- A common condition in all victims of the immuno-deficient syndrome is a very low ratio of the two type-T lymphocytes (white blood cells) that fight fungal infections. The lower the ratio, the lower the patient's resistance. With treatment, the ratio increases back toward normal. ⋆

SYMPTOMS

Dr. Sandy Pomerantz advises all gay men to be on the lookout for possible symptoms of Kaposi's Sarcoma and other immuno-suppressed diseases.

"You should do a self-inspection of your skin and the inside of your mouth at least once a month," he says. "And get a friend to check the places you can't see."

Kaposi's Sarcoma is marked by the appearance of some or all of the following symptoms:

- Flat or raised lesions on the skin or inside the mouth.

- The lesions are just there; they do not cause pain or itching.

- The lesions will be a shade of purple, not pink or red. In the mouth, they are usually purple-blue. On the skin, usually purple-brown, purple-red, or purple-blue.

- Whether the lesions are flat or raised, you can feel substance below the surface of the skin.

- Lesions usually appear first on the arms, trunk, or legs, not on the face.

- Unusual swelling of the lymph nodes, especially in the armpits, the groin, and the depression behind the collarbones, and behind the ears.

Pneumocystis carnii pneumonia and CMV infections have symptoms resembling those of mononucleosis: extreme tiredness, sometimes a persistent cough, swelling of the lymph glands, and so on.

Dr. Pomerantz strongly advises anyone with any of the symptoms of Kaposi's Sarcoma or the other immuno-deficient ailments to see a doctor immediately for an examination. ⋆

Feature

Community Spirit in Black Leather: Mistresses Carole and Kathy

By TIM WARFORD

"God, what are those women doing in black leather and handcuffs?" That's the common reaction when people first see Sacramento's two mistresses.

Preferring to be called mistresses Carole and Kathy, the duo are the only openly-gay mistresses on the West Coast and possibly even the country.

"We want to make the gay community more united, to give everyone a common goal," explains Kathy.

To this end, Kathy serves on the Board of Directors of Our Community United and is a member of the Sacramento Political Action Caucus (Sac PAC). Carole is a member of the publicity committee of Our Community United and Sac PAC.

"Every member of the community over 18 should register to vote and then vote in the November election."

The two mistresses were recently appointed to head the Sac PAC's Committee to Elect Robbie Waters Sheriff and are doing voter registration within the gay community.

"It's time for the gay community to put their energies together and start working as a unit to create a clout that has been there and we've repressed it—the strength that the gay community has," says Kathy.

The mistresses' philosophy about accomplishing their goal of uniting the gay community involves putting past differences behind and looking to the future.

Calling the '80s "the decade of gay people," the mistresses feel that this is the decade for gays to make a statement of who they are as a people.

"One of the easiest ways [to make ourselves known] is for every member of the community over 18 to register to vote and then to vote in the November election for the candidates who are supportive of the gay cause," says Kathy.

Prior to the June election, Kathy and Carole participated in a "bar crawl" with Lt. Robbie Waters, candidate for sheriff of Sacramento County, acting as his escorts and body guards.

"It was a very positive experience for Robbie to become aware of the growing gay community," says Carole.

"I think it was a good experience for our community to realize that there are straight people willing to establish a relationship with the gay community," she continues.

While the mistresses are involved in Our Community United and Sac PAC, they have declined to get involved in other organizations.

"We want to work with as many different organizations in the gay community as possible. We don't want to be confined to one particular group—we put energy out in many different ways. We strive for a united community," says Kathy.

The two admit that they are more involved with the men's community than the women's community.

"While we're not involved with the women's community as much as we would like to be, hopefully we will get more involved with the women," says Kathy.

Recently, while the two were in Los Angeles, they entered a leather and lace competition at the Palms, a women's bar. They told the men they met that they were competing and asked them to join them at the bar.

"We felt it was a good opportunity for the men and women to enjoy the evening with each other and with the mistresses," says Carole.

STAR Photos by Gene Hoisington

Mistresses Carole (left) and Kathy (right) pose in the leather shop at The Wreck Room, their usual resort. It was here they got their leathers, custom-made by Earl.

"The women welcomed us with open arms. We had our male slaves come to be with the mistresses in a women's bar—It was some of the best times that the men and women have had together," she continues.

The two are quick to point out that they consider themselves gay women and not lesbians. "We don't like to separate the 'species'," says Carole. "I feel we are the gay community."

Carole, who has been out for 20 years, says that within the past couple of years she has seen a lot of changes in the gay community.

"I saw a lot of changes last year; before that I didn't see much of anything, I was too busy in the bars."

Kathy came out two years ago and feels that she "came out at the best time."

Acknowledging that society has become more accepting of the gay lifestyle in the past few years, the mistresses feel that gays are responsible for their own oppression.

"Until people feel comfortable with their own lifestyle, we will remain an oppressed society," says Kathy.

The mistresses' lifestyle involves leather. As they have started wearing their leather more frequently, some people avoid them.

"Groups of people that don't want to be judged by others are usually their own worst enemy because they judge others. I don't understand it," says Carole.

In addition to being political, the mistresses are also very spiritual.

"We have our own spiritual adviser, Amber Faith, who was designated high priestess of Sacramento by the [Rawley Hills] Court [of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire]," says Carole. "We don't make a major decision without consulting the high priestess."

Kathy and Carole also received titles from the Rawley Hills Court. They were designated Sacramento's mistresses of leather and love.

"We want to make the gay community more united, to give everyone a common goal."

They could just as well have been designated Sacramento's ambassadors of good will, because when they travel they tell people to come to River City and see the sights and enjoy the action.

"When we told people in L.A. about Sacramento they couldn't believe it. They told us they thought Sacramento was a sleepy town," says Carole.

The friends that they make in other cities and the friends they have in Sacramento know that the mistresses are beautiful people and the best type of friends that a person could have because of their positive energy and love. ★

Sacramento's "mistresses of leather and love," Carole (left) and Kathy (right) hold forth in the game room at the Power Plant. The two make friends wherever they go.

Enter Gay Olympics Until Aug. 10

The torch for the first Gay Olympic Games is scheduled to arrive in Sacramento on Thursday, August 19. The 4,000-mile cross-country torch run will start in New York City on August 13 and reach San Francisco, site of the games, in time for the August 28 opening ceremonies.

The light, symbol of the spirit of the games, will be the centerpiece of the Gay Olympic Games from August 28 through September 5. Organizers of the games estimate that 30,000 people from all over the world will attend the nine-day celebration, which will include performing and creative arts events as well as athletic competition.

By early July, almost 1,000 men and women had registered to participate in the games. Registrants included at least three former U.S. Olympic team athletes, one of them a woman swimmer, and athletes from a dozen foreign countries.

This surge of interest prompted the Gay Olympic Games committee to extend the deadline for registration until August 10.

The committee expects about 2,000 entrants to be present for the opening ceremonies on August 28 in Kezar Stadium.

The Gay Olympic Games will feature competition in 17 different sports: basketball, billiards, bowling, boxing, cycling, golf, marathon, physique, powerlifting, rugby (women only), soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, volleyball, and wrestling (men only).

Registration fees are $25 for individuals or $100 for teams of four or more, representing any city or town in the world. Standards, rules, and qualifications for all sports are available from the Gay Olympics, P.O. Box 14874, San Francisco, CA 94114. Interested people may also call (415) 861-8282 or 861-0882, or visit the office at 597 Castro Street, San Francisco.

Tickets are available for the opening ceremonies on August 28 and for the closing ceremonies on September 5. The price is $15 for each event or $25 for both. Send a check or money order to Gay Olympic Games at the above post office box.

Tom Waddell, M.D., who placed sixth in the decathlon at the Mexico City Olympic Games in 1968, heads the Gay Olympic Games committee. Alita Rosenfeld and Mark Brown, a former sports writer who helped bring gay softball to national prominence, chair the sports committee.

Rosenfeld also heads the women's outreach, which has been successful in attracting women participants in every sport. More information about the women's outreach is available from her at (415) 472-1309.

The Gay Olympic Games aim "to expand our image and educate the general public on the vitality, variety, and versatility of the gay community. . . While it is expected that all participating athletes will be striving for excellence, the emphasis of the games will be on participation, cooperation, and friendship."

The games are being financed by tax-deductible contributions, fundraisers, concessions, registration fees, ticket sales, and sales of posters, buttons, and T-shirts. Hundreds of businesses from the Bay Area and around the country and the world have contributed money, time, talent, products, and services.

The organizers point out that much more sponsorship is needed. Businesses or individuals who contribute $200 or more will be listed in the program as official sponsors. Donations should be made payable to the San Francisco Tavern Guild Foundation to be tax deductible. The games committee has not yet achieved tax exempt status.

Volunteer workers are also needed for housing, transportation, and other functions in connection with the games. Twenty committees are assigned to these jobs; anyone interested in working on the games should call (415) 861-8282 to volunteer. There is a 24-hour answering machine on that line for the convenience of callers. ★

SAN FRANCISCO '82

Items

Openings And A Closing

By RICK VAN DYKE

Some of the best local feminist entertainers will be performing at La Semilla, 312 20th Street, this Saturday, July 31. Starting at 8 p.m., there'll be comedy, drama, and music from **Jody Donaldson, Ty Chanson, Jeanette Hess, Barb Stannard, Shia Raspberry,** and **Cindy Ellison**. A little later, **Solstice II** will play rock 'n' roll for dancing. Ticket prices go like this: female members of La Semilla—59 cents, male members—$1; female non-members—$1.59, male non-members—$2. Call 443-5001 for childcare information.

Crossover advertising has hit the local media: did you catch the Club 21 ad in the Suttertown News? "A gay bar whose patrons welcome all members of the community." That's nice, guys.

The newly-formed Lesbian Mothers and Friends group is looking for volunteers to do childcare during their meetings. If you can help, give a call at 961-6704 or 454-3020.

If you like to dance, but also like to breathe, check out Anna Marie's—how about at their Grand Opening, remember, this is one women's bar where men are also welcome.

Join the 100-hour Vigil to End the Arms Race, August 5-9. Call the Sacramento Peace Center (a new distribution point for The STAR) at 446-0787.

Another recent opening is the Golden Nugget Saloon at the Parking Lot, the result of recent remodeling. Of course, by day the P.L. is also a great place to work on your tan by the pool.

The Proposition 15 March for Safe Streets needs volunteers to help organize the October 3 March and Rally. The first meeting will be at La Semilla on Tuesday, August 10, at 7 p.m. For more information, call **Jennifer** at 443-0585.

Sacramento's third monthly gay publication, The Patlar Gazette, hit the streets July 20. A production of Patlar Enterprises, the folks behind Man Two Man, the Gazette has a kind of old-fashioned, Old West look and feel. It aims to cover a 10-county "greater valley marketing area," and its publication date seems aimed at the gap between The Rambler and Mom...Guess What!

San Francisco Supervisor **Harry Britt** will be the guest speaker at a benefit wine and cheese reception at La Semilla on Friday, August 13, at 5:30 p.m. Britt will speak on "Coalition Building on the Left." The $5 price of admission will help support La Semilla's local leftist coalition-building efforts.

Le Theatre Lesbien will bring "Dykes on Parade" back to Sacramento for two performances on August 20 and 21 at the Sierra 2 Center for the Performing Arts. Director **Cherie Gordon** says that "Dykes" has been touring California with great success since June.

We hear there was a nice crowd at David's restaurant for the Mom...Guess What! staff meeting featuring **Frank McCulloch**, Executive Editor of McClatchy Newspapers. Seems like he believes there'll always be an audience for real newspapers, despite video, computers, and all the rest—and that he had some good words to say for The STAR.

Northtrails Stables, located near Elkhorn Boulevard and Interstate 80, has been bought and renovated by **Tom Corbin**, Sacramento's Mr. Gay Reno Rodeo 1981, and his partner, attorney **Phil Hoskins**. There are 24 indoor stalls available for rent, if you need a place to board your trusty steed. Unlimited trail riding from Sacramento north is also offered, and they have plans for a gay trail-riding club and maybe even horse rentals. Phone 444-9939 or (1) 742-4247 for more information.

A San Francisco tour and travel company, American River Village Tours, is promoting Sacramento as a new gay resort, "American River Village," for one and two-day gay tours. Village? Whatever happened to River City? Is this ignorance or arrogance or both?

The Sacramento Women's Center will be sponsoring a Lesbian Rap Group on Wednesday nights from 6 to 8 starting August 11. Possible discussion topics include defining lesbianism, reviewing lesbian community resources, coming out, roles in relationships, racism and anti-semitism in the lesbian community, lesbian mothers, and sexuality. Child care will be provided. Although the facility is not wheelchair-accessible, the rap group will try to accommodate any physically challenged woman who is interested in the group. A $2 to $5 fee will be charged for each session, but no woman will be turned away for lack of funds. Sign up by July 31 at Lioness Books, 2104 Capitol Avenue. Their hours are noon to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and noon to 6 on Saturday. Call 442-4657 for more information.

Jason's Pub in Rancho Cordova, a popular gathering place for the women's community for the last few years, held its Grand Closing party on Sunday, July 25. It's a shame that apparently there's not enough business to go around in these economically hard times.

The STAR has a new telephone number to provide you with better service during business hours. Call 452-1476 to leave a message with our answering service or to get distribution information. A member of the staff will call you as soon as possible after getting your message. ★

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Business

New Cab Firms Seek Gay Fares

Within the past month, two new taxicab companies have begun operating within the City of Sacramento. While the companies are new, the drivers are not.

River City Jitney Cab and Capitol City Coop Cab were both started by striking workers of Greyhound and Yellow Cab. Both new companies are vying for gay patronage and are preparing to install direct-line telephone service from gay businesses to their dispatchers.

According to Jerry Cassidy, business manager for Coop, his company will install direct phones at Club 21, Broadway Ltd, and the Steamworks. Jitney will install a phone at the Mercantile, according to Business Manager Joe Scardino.

Unlike the older cab companies in town, the new taxi companies feature air-conditioned cars and union drivers. Jitney uses former Highway Patrol cars and Coop uses Ford Fairmonts and Mercury Zephyrs.

Drivers for Jitney are members of the Service Employees International Union, while Coop's drivers belong to the Independent Transportation Workers Union.

The major difference between the two companies is the ownership and governance structure. Coop employees own equal shares of the company and elect a board of directors that sets policy and hires the management. Jitney is a corporation owned by individual stockholders who elect the board of directors that hires a business manager to administer the company.

While neither company's drivers are still employed by Yellow or Greyhound, Cassidy says that the strike is not over.

Our pickets are our cabs on the street. We will not rest until those two companies [Greyhound and Yellow] are out of business or second to Coop, he says.

The two new companies are a result of the city's deregulation of taxi service because of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

The county will deregulate taxis in mid-August and the airport will then also deregulate its taxi service.

The initial maximum that a taxi may charge is $2.20 for the first mile and $1.20 for each additional mile, with an $8 per hour charge for waiting time.

At present, all the cab companies are charging at this rate. However, the city will soon abolish the ceiling and let each company charge what the marketplace will allow. The rates must be posted on the side of each cab. ⋆

Legal Retainer Plan Lawyer Announces

Attorney Philip Hoskins announced a $75-per-year legal services retainer plan in the July newsletter of the River City Business Association. Hoskins calls the plan an innovative step in obtaining legal services and information at modest cost.

Under the terms of the plan, for $75 a year Hoskins will provide one simple will or other document, two office consultations, unlimited telephone consultations, and reduced rates for all other legal services.

"Most people," Hoskins said, "do not have a way to get ordinary legal questions answered without spending at least $25 on each occasion." He believes that this keeps average citizens from getting effective legal counsel when they need it, and thinks that "this lack of real access to lawyers has a lot to do with the rather negative image attorneys now have in the public's eyes."

Hoskins was until recently in charge of directing Jacoby and Meyers offices throughout California. Jacoby and Meyers specialize in standardized basic legal services for the average person at reasonable costs, and have offices in many Montgomery Ward department stores.

For more information about the retainer plan, call Hoskins' office, 444-9939. ⋆

Softball Schedule for GSL and SWSL

Aug. 1	11:45 a.m.	Balboa #2, SF GSL	Parking Lot vs Pilsner Inn
Aug. 1	12 noon	Curtis Park SWSL	W.O.C. vs New Horizons
Aug. 7-8	Sacramento Women's Sports League Tournament		
Aug. 8	11:45 a.m.	Jkson #2, SF GSL	Parking Lot vs Pendulum
Aug. 8	12 noon	Ninos Park GSL	Wreck Room vs Stallion
Aug. 15-16	Gay Softball League Playoffs		

STAR Photo by James K. Graham

Voter Registration Drive Begins

Mistress Kathy and Emperor VIII Larry Macy registered 11 voters at the potluck and swimming party held Friday, July 23, by the CSUS Lesbian and Gay People's Union. A community-wide voter registration drive under the auspices of SacPAC (Sacramento Political Action Committee) began three weeks ago, and has been working in the bars and at local events to increase political awareness.

Alaska Judge Holds Joint Property Pact Valid In Lesbian 'Divorce' Lawsuit

A woman who signed over half her property to her female lover after the two women became "one family" in 1978 must abide by the agreement, a Superior Court judge in Anchorage, Alaska ruled July 22.

According to an Associated Press report, Judge Douglas Serdahely said that Sherry Adams is entitled to half ownership of a house, several acres of undeveloped property and some mining claims. However, Adams also must pay half the $18,924 debt the two ran up when their business failed.

Adams' former lover, Sue Smith, acknowledged that she signed three quitclaim deeds to the property as a romantic gesture when the two signed a "unity agreement" on July 4, 1978, declaring themselves "partners — members of one household, one family, one entity."

Until they broke up in 1980, the women and Adams' two children lived together as a family. They maintained joint checking accounts, paid bills out of those accounts, bought cars and property and opened a business together.

Smith filed suit in May 1981, asking for clear title on the property. She claimed that both women had understood that the property arrangement was tied to their personal relationship, and that the symbolic half-ownership was valid only as long as they remained together.

The judge ruled there was no evidence supporting Smith's interpretation of the property transfer. ⋆

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New Books for Fall Give Lots of Variety

Gay book lovers should find the late summer and fall a very enjoyable time. A number of new and reprinted fiction and non-fiction titles are set for release in August, September, and October.

August will see the paperback release of Charles Nelson's powerful epistolary novel about the Vietnam war, "The Boy Who Picked the Bullets Up" ($6.95). Another title with military connections is also scheduled to be issued in August. It is "Mars Without Venus — A Study of Some Homosexual Generals (from Alexander to Kitchener)" by Major General Frank M. Richardson, priced at $14.95.

Heading the list of September releases should be "A Boy's Own Story," a new novel by Edmund White, author of "States of Desire" (clothbound, $13.95). From English author Peter Robins will come a paperbound collection of short stories, "The Gay Touch" ($4.95). "Blood on the Dining Room Floor" is described as "a rare Gertrude Stein mystery," and will be priced at $6.95 paperbound and $12.95 clothbound. Taking a look at a neglected subject will be "Gay and Gray: The Older Homosexual Man" by Raymond Berger (cloth, $14.95). And, in preparation for the new year, the latest edition of "The Gay Engagement Calendar" (paper, $6.95) will come out in September, too.

Taking up where the engagement calendar leaves off, "The Gay Book of Days" by Martin Grief tops the October list. Its subtitle tells all: "An Evocatively Illustrated Who's Who of Who Is, Was, May Have Been, Probably Was, and Almost Certainly Seems to Have Been Gay During the Last 5,000 Years" (cloth, $17.95). Scholars and amateurs alike will rejoice at the reissue of Jane Rule's study of lesbian authors, "Lesbian Images" ($6.95 paperbound, $13.95 clothbound). Mary Renault's latest ancient Greek puppet show, "Funeral Games," will get a paperbound edition ($3.95).

"Noel Coward's Diaries" (cloth, $22.50) and "A Little Original Sin: The Life and Works of Jane Bowles" (paper, $9.95) complete the October releases on an autobiographical note. ★

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Calendar

Wednesday, July 28

★ The STAR is published.

★ Man Two Man social—guest speaker. 7:30 p.m. 391-9755 for info.

Saturday, July 31

★ An Evening of Feminist Music. La Semilla. 8 p.m. Tickets 59¢ to $2.

Sunday, August 1

★ Lesbian Mothers and Friends. Picnic. Noon. McKinley Park near baseball diamond.

★ Wimmin's Celebration. Non-sectarian, non-patriarchal, non-sexist spiritual worship. Women only. Potluck afterwards. 6 p.m. Jean, 736-0113, for information.

Monday, August 2

★ Bowling. Land Park Bowl. 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 3

★ Capitol City Squares. Parking Lot. 7 p.m.

★ GNIE. Incredible Edible. 7:30 p.m.

★ Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Carmichael Presbyterian Church, 5645 Marconi. 7:30 p.m.

★ Lesbian Mothers and Friends. Rap group. 4811 Weedman Way, Carmichael. Call 961-6704.

Wednesday, August 4

★ Deadline for The STAR.

★ SacPAC. 7:30 p.m. 457-7489 for info.

★ Man Two Man social—Fall Fashions. 7:30 p.m. 391-9755 for info.

Thursday, August 5

★ Lesbian & Gay Attorneys meet. 7:30 p.m. Call Dorothy Thomson, 442-4642.

Friday, August 6

★ Lesbian and gay Jewish Shabbat service. Chapel, Congregation B'nai Israel, 3600 Riverside Blvd. 8 p.m. 446-7122 for info.

★ Sacramento Men's Collective backpacking trip to Desolation Wilderness. Call 985-9669 for information.

Saturday, August 7

★ Sacramento Women's Sports League softball tournament. Lawrence Park. 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 8

★ Sacramento Women's Sports League softball tournament. Lawrence Park. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

★ Dignity Mass and meeting. St. Francis Church. 3 p.m. 739-8353 for info.

★ Wimmin's Celebration. Non-sectarian, non-patriarchal, non-sexist spiritual worship. Women only. Potluck afterwards. 6 p.m. Jean, 736-0113, for information.

Monday, August 9

★ Bowling. Land Park Bowl. 6:30 p.m.

★ Our Community United Leadership Conference III. Sierra 2, 24th and Castro. 7:30 p.m.

★ Our River City Family council meeting. 485-7960 for info.

★ River City Business Association general meeting. Incredible Edible. 8 p.m.

Tuesday, August 10

★ Advocates for Lesbian and Gay State Employees. Incredible Edible. 6 p.m.

★ Capitol City Squares. Parking Lot. 7 p.m.

Wednesday, August 11

★ The STAR is published.

★ Sacramento Men's Collective open rap. La Semilla. 7:30 p.m. Call 985-9669 for information.

★ Man Two Man. 7:30 p.m. 391-9755 for info.

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